

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

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1. (currently amended) A method for performing master planning priority assignment, the method comprising:

creating at least one rule database;

assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand record containing a demand record attribute field and a demand record priority field; said assigning including:

identifying a selecting said at least one rule database, said at least one rule database including at least one record, a rule database attribute field that correlates to said demand record attribute field, and a rule database priority field;

querying said at least one rule database for a corresponding rule database record that contains data in said rule database attribute field that matches data in said demand record attribute field; and

based upon said querying, updating data in said demand record priority field with data from said corresponding rule database priority field.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said data in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains an explicit value operable for specifying a priority to be given to a demand record;

wherein said match occurs if said data in said demand record attribute field is contained within said explicit value.

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3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said data in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains a hierarchy value and operable for specifying a priority to be given to a hierarchy level defined with said rule database attribute field;

wherein said match occurs if said data in said demand record attribute field is contained within said hierarchy value.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said data in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains a wildcard value and operable for specifying a default priority value to said rule database attribute field;

wherein said data in said demand record attribute field is not used in said matching.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said demand record attribute field includes due date, customer, and demand type.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising updating said at least one record in said at least one rule database.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim [1]3 further comprising creating a said hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing a hierarchy valuecycl.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim [1]3 further comprising creating a said hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing ansaid explicit value.

10. (currently amended) A method for master planning priority assignment, the method comprising:

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creating at least one rule database;

assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand record containing a demand record attribute field and a demand record priority field; said assigning including:

identifying and selecting said at least one rule database, said at least one rule database including at least one record, a rule database attribute field that correlates to said demand record attribute field, and a rule database priority field;

querying said at least one rule database for a corresponding rule database record that contains data in said rule database attribute field that matches data in said demand record attribute field, said matching comprising:

querying said at least one rule database for an explicit data match;

if no said explicit data match exists, querying said at least one rule database for a hierarchy value match; and;

if no said explicit data match or said hierarchy value data match exists, querying said at least one rule database for a wildcard match; and

based upon said querying, updating data in said demand record priority field with data from said corresponding rule database priority field.

11. (currently amended) A system for performing master planning priority assignment, the system comprising:

a storage device storing master planning priority assignment data;

a user system; and

a host system in communication with said storage device and said user systems, said host system implementing a process comprising:

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creating at least one rule database;

assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand record containing a demand record attribute field and a demand record priority field; said assigning including:

identifying and selecting said at least one rule database, said at least one rule database including at least one record, a rule database attribute field that correlates to said demand record attribute field, and a rule database priority field;

querying said at least one rule database for a corresponding rule database record that contains data in said rule database attribute field that matches data in said demand record attribute field; and

based upon said querying, updating data in said demand record priority field with data from said corresponding rule database priority field.

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein said data in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains an explicit value operable for specifying a priority to be given to a demand record;

wherein said match occurs if said data in said demand record attribute field is contained within said explicit value.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein said data in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains a hierarchy value and operable for specifying a priority to be given to a hierarchy level defined within said rule database attribute field;

wherein said match occurs if said data in said demand record attribute field is contained within said hierarchy value.

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14. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein said data in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains a wildcard value and operable for specifying a default priority value to said rule database attribute field;

wherein said data in said demand record attribute field is not used in said matching.

15. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said demand record attribute field includes due date, customer, and demand type.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein said host system implementing a process further comprises updating said at least one record in said at least one rule database.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein said host system implementing a process further comprises creating asaid hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing a hierarchy valuelevel.

19. (currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein said host system implementing a process further comprises creating asaid hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing ansaid_explicit value.

20. (Original) The system of claim 11 further comprising a network providing communication between the host system and the user system.

21. (Original) The system of claim 11 further comprising a network providing communication between the storage device and the host system.

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22. (currently amended) A system for performing master planning priority assignment, the system comprising:

at least one rule database;

a storage device storing master planning priority assignment data associated with said at least one rule database;

a user system; and

a host system in communication with said storage device and said user systems, said host system implementing a process comprising:

creating said at least one rule database;

assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand record containing a demand record attribute field and a demand record priority field; said assigning including:

identifying and selecting said at least one rule database, said at least one rule database including at least one record, a rule database attribute field that correlates to said demand record attribute field, and a rule database priority field;

querying said at least one rule database for a corresponding rule database record that contains data in said rule database attribute field that matches data in said demand record attribute field, said matching comprising:

querying said at least one rule database for an explicit data match;

if no said explicit data match exists, querying said at least one rule database for a hierarchy value match; and

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if no said explicit data match or said hierarchy value data match exists, querying said at least one rule database for a wildcard match; and

based upon said querying, updating data in said demand record

priority field with data from said corresponding rule database priority field.

23. (currently amended) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for performing master planning priority assignment, the storage medium storing instructions for causing a host system to implement a method comprising:

creating at least one rule database;

assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand record containing a demand record attribute field and a demand record priority field; said assigning including:

identifying a selecting said at least one rule database, said at least one rule database including at least one record, a rule database attribute field that correlates to said demand record attribute field, and a rule database priority field;

querying said at least one rule database for a corresponding rule database record that contains data in said rule database attribute field that matches data in said demand record attribute field; and

based upon said querying, updating data in said demand record priority field with data from said corresponding rule database priority field.

24. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said data in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains an explicit value specifiable for specifying a priority to be given to a demand record;

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wherein said match occurs if said data in said demand record attribute field is contained within said explicit value.

25. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said data in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains a hierarchy value and operable for specifying a priority to be given to a hierarchy level defined within said rule database attribute field;

wherein said match occurs if said data in said demand record attribute field is contained within said hierarchy value.

26. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said data in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains a wildcard value and operable for specifying a default priority value to said rule database attribute field;

wherein said data in said demand record attribute field is not used in said matching.

27. (Original) The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said demand record attribute field includes due date, customer, and demand type.

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising updating said at least one record in said at least one rule database.

30. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising creating a said hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing a hierarchy value level.

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31. (currently amended) The storage medium of claim 2325 further comprising creating a said hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing an explicit value.

32. (currently amended) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for performing master planning priority assignment, the storage medium storing instructions for causing a host system to implement a method comprising:

creating at least one rule database;

assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand record containing a demand record attribute field and a demand record priority field; said assigning including:

identifying a selecting said at least one rule database, said at least one rule database including at least one record, a rule database attribute field that correlates to said demand record attribute field, and a rule database priority field;

querying said at least one rule database for a corresponding rule database record that contains data in said rule database attribute field that matches data in said demand record attribute field, said matching comprising:

querying said at least one rule database for an explicit data match;

if no said explicit data match exists, querying said at least one rule database for a hierarchy value match; and;

if no said explicit data match or said hierarchy value data match exists, querying said at least one rule database for a wildcard match; and

based upon said querying, updating data in said demand record priority field with data from said corresponding rule database priority field.